AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-4 and 10-11; and add new Claims 14 and 15 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An air passage switching device for opening and closing at least one air passage, said air passage switching device comprising:

a sliding door that slides along an opening [[face]] of the air passage, the sliding door further comprising a film member that presses against an edge ~~seal face~~ of the opening and ~~end faces of the opening~~ a grill member, [[said]] the sliding door including a door supporting the film member, the door having openings that allow a draft pressure to pass therethrough and act on the film member; and

elastic pressing means that elastically presses the film member against the edge ~~seal faces~~ of the ~~air passages~~ opening and the ~~end faces of the openings; and~~ grill members;

wherein a first ~~a opening spacing defined as a~~ spacing between the door in a center of the air passage and the ~~end faces of the opening, said door spacing being at a center of the air passage along an orthogonal direction to the sliding direction of the sliding door, an edge seal face spacing defined as a spacing between said edge seal faces at ends of the air passage and door, said ends being orthogonal to the sliding direction of the sliding door, said opening spacing being larger than said edge seal face spacing~~ grill member is equal to or greater than a second spacing between the edge of

the opening and the door plate in an end portion of the air passage in a perpendicular direction. 18

2. (currently amended) An air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein a maximum value of the ~~opening~~ first spacing is set to a range such that an amount of elastic compression of said elastic pressing means after assembly is at least 0.

3. (currently amended) An air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein the elastic pressing means comprises a plurality of slender elastic pressing means extending parallel with the sliding direction of the sliding door, said plurality of slender elastic pressing means disposed only in positions facing the edge ~~seal faces~~ of the air ~~passage~~ opening and the ~~end faces of the opening~~ grill member.

4. (currently amended) An air passage switching device comprising:

a sliding door which slides along an opening ~~faces~~ of ~~the air passages~~ a passage, the sliding door comprising:

a grill ~~members are formed on opening faces of the air passages, parallel with a sliding direction of the sliding door~~ member for dividing the opening of the passage into a plurality of openings;

wherein the sliding door comprises a film member that presses against an edge ~~seal faces~~ of the ~~air passages~~ opening and end faces of the grill ~~members~~ member, ~~said~~ the sliding door closing the ~~air passages~~ passage, ~~said~~ the sliding door

including a door plate supporting the film member, the sliding door including an elastic pressing means that elastically presses the film member against the edge ~~seal faces~~ of the ~~air passages~~ opening and an end faces of the grill ~~members~~ member;

wherein the door plate is provided with openings that allow a draft pressure to act on the film member; and

wherein the elastic pressing means comprise a plurality of slender elastic pressing means extending parallel with the sliding direction of the sliding door, said elastic pressing means disposed only at positions facing the edge ~~seal faces~~ of the ~~air passages~~ opening and the end ~~faces~~ of the grill ~~members~~ member.

5. (original) An air passage switching device, for opening and closing air passages by means of a sliding door which slides along opening faces of the air passages, wherein:

the sliding door comprises a film member, for pressing against edge seal faces of the air passages and closing the air passages, and a door plate supporting the film member;

the door plate is provided with openings for allowing a draft pressure to act on the film member; and

elastic pressing means for pressing the film member against the edge seal faces of the air passages with an elastic reaction is disposed between the film member and the door plate and are fixed to the film member.

6. (original) An air passage switching device according to claim 5, wherein the elastic pressing means is slender and extends parallel with the sliding direction of the sliding door.

7. (original) An air passage switching device according to claim 5, wherein the elastic pressing means is plate shaped and substantially matches a shape of the film member.

8. (original) An air passage switching device according to claim 5, wherein an amount of elastic compression of the elastic pressing means during assembly is set in a range of 0 to ±1.5mm.

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9. (original) An air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein the film member comprises a film base layer and a low-friction material layer provided on a side of the film base layer to slide over the edge seal faces and the end faces of the grill members.

10. (currently amended) An air passage switching device according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, further comprising an air conditioner having air passages that open and close with the sliding door for supplying air to a passenger compartment of the vehicle.

11. (currently amended) An air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein said opening is at least two grill ~~member~~ members formed in said air

passage, said grill members parallel with a sliding direction of the sliding door, said sliding door being a plate shaped door that slides from each of said two grill members to the other to selectively open one of said grill members and close another of said grill members.

12. (original) An air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein said door member supports said film member along a curved periphery, said opening having a curved periphery matching that of said film member.

13. (previously presented) An air passage device according to claim 5, wherein said door plate supports said film member along a curved periphery, said openings having a curved matching that of said film member.

14. (new) The air passage switching device according to claim 1, wherein a case dividing plane is formed proximate to and along the grill member.

15. (new) The air passage switching device according to claim 4, wherein a case dividing plane is formed proximate to and along the grill member.